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**Consumer Price Index  
Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN  
Second Half 2003 Semiannual Averages and 2003 Annual Average**

Consumer prices in the Cincinnati-Hamilton metropolitan area increased 1.6 percent during the second half of 2003, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. The Cincinnati-Hamilton Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the second half of 2003 was 174.7 (1982-84=100). This second half gain was very close to the 1.5 percent increase recorded in the second half of 2002.

On an annual average basis, Cincinnati area consumers paid 2.0 percent more for retail goods and services in 2003 than in 2002. Major contributing factors included an increase in the cost of shelter, double-digit percent gains in costs for gasoline and utility (piped) gas service, and a rise in the cost of medical care. Charlene Peiffer, acting regional commissioner for the Bureau in Chicago, noted that small to moderate price increases were also reported in the components for education and communication, recreation, food and beverages, other goods and services, and apparel.

The housing component rose 2.2 percent in from 2002 to 2003. This was more than the 0.7 percent gain in 2002, but in-line with the 2.4 percent annual average gain over the three previous years (1999-01). The largest contributing factor in the 2003 gain was a 1.8 percent increase in the shelter index. Fuel and utility costs were up 10.5 percent in 2003 headed by a 39.5 percent hike in the utility (piped) gas service index. In contrast, the utility (piped) gas service index declined 26.1 percent in 2002. The household furnishing and operations index declined for the third year in a row, falling 2.5 percent in 2003. This index fell 2.2 percent in 2001 the and 3.8 percent in 2002.

The food and beverages component rose 1.2 percent in 2003. This was double the 0.6 percent increase for 2002, but not as much as the 2.7 percent average annual gain over the previous five years. The cost of grocery food (food at home) was up 1.2 percent and the cost of dining out (food away from home) advanced 0.7 percent. Alcoholic beverage prices rose 0.5 percent in 2003.

The transportation component moved up 1.8 percent over the year after rising 0.7 percent in 2001 and a scant 0.1 percent in 2002. Gasoline prices were up an average 15.8 percent in 2003 following annual average declines of 7.8 percent and 6.6 percent in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

The medical care component rose 5.2 percent above its 2002 level. This increase follows gains of 9.0 percent in 2000, and 4.8 in 2001 and 5.6 percent in 2002.

Apparel costs rose 1.6 percent in 2003 following annual declines that averaged 2.7 percent over the past three years.

A 0.9 percent increase was noted in the recreation component in 2003. This gain was well below the 6.7 percent hike in 2002. The education and communication component advanced 0.9 percent above its 2002 level after rising an average 3.3 percent in each of the previous two years. The component for other goods and services increased 3.0 in 2003, close to its 3.3 percent gain in 2002.

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Scheduled release date for the 1<sup>st</sup> Half 2004 CPI:  
Tuesday, August 17, 2004

#### CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U. S. City Average and for the Cincinnati area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI HOTLINE service. This recorded message also provides percent change from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The HOTLINE number in Cincinnati is (513) 684-2349.

#### BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 300 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 27 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select menu option 1, and when prompted, order document 1000.

#### BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the

self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the five largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain utility rates, some fuel prices, and certain other items.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 27 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The index measures price change from a designated reference date- 1982-84- which equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: The price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, Chapter 17, April 1997, and "The Consumer Price Index.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods**

**Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2003 from—	
	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	171.3	172.0	174.7	2.0	1.6
All items (1967=100) .....	529.9	532.2	540.6	-	-
Food and beverages .....	163.8	163.6	165.5	1.0	1.2
Food .....	162.1	161.8	163.9	1.1	1.3
Food at home .....	160.5	160.1	162.4	1.2	1.4
Food away from home .....	166.0	165.3	167.5	.9	1.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	181.2	183.0	181.3	.1	-.9
Housing .....	163.5	165.3	166.3	1.7	.6
Shelter .....	190.8	192.9	192.2	.7	-.4
Rent of primary residence .....	186.0	189.4	190.8	2.6	.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	193.5	195.3	194.3	.4	-.5
Fuels and utilities .....	130.3	135.9	145.8	11.9	7.3
Fuels .....	111.7	118.8	126.9	13.6	6.8
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	116.7	122.3	132.5	13.5	8.3
Electricity .....	123.8	118.9	124.0	.2	4.3
Utility (piped) gas service .....	124.0	160.9	188.0	51.6	16.8
Household furnishings and operations .....	116.3	114.4	114.0	-2.0	-.3
Apparel .....	117.7	109.7	133.5	13.4	21.7
Transportation .....	151.7	152.5	153.0	.9	.3
Private transportation .....	150.9	151.6	151.9	.7	.2
Motor fuel .....	125.9	140.6	139.9	11.1	-.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	125.8	140.3	139.8	11.1	-.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	127.5	143.0	142.2	11.5	-.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	124.7	138.5	138.4	11.0	-.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	113.2	125.1	125.3	10.7	.2
Medical care .....	284.6	293.1	298.5	4.9	1.8
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	113.3	114.0	115.0	1.5	.9
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	106.1	105.6	107.1	.9	1.4
Other goods and services .....	318.9	319.7	324.3	1.7	1.4
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	171.3	172.0	174.7	2.0	1.6
Commodities .....	144.4	143.7	146.3	1.3	1.8
Commodities less food and beverages .....	133.3	132.4	135.1	1.4	2.0
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	141.6	140.7	149.6	5.6	6.3
Durables .....	126.4	125.5	122.1	-3.4	-2.7
Services .....	200.4	202.5	205.5	2.5	1.5
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	165.5	166.0	168.6	1.9	1.6
All items less shelter .....	165.4	165.7	169.6	2.5	2.4
Commodities less food .....	135.0	134.2	136.8	1.3	1.9
Nondurables .....	153.1	152.6	158.1	3.3	3.6
Nondurables less food .....	144.1	143.3	151.7	5.3	5.9
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	215.6	218.2	225.2	4.5	3.2
Services less medical care services .....	192.5	194.1	196.9	2.3	1.4
Energy .....	119.2	129.7	134.0	12.4	3.3
All items less energy .....	179.0	178.9	181.3	1.3	1.3
All items less food and energy .....	183.3	183.3	185.8	1.4	1.4

<sup>1</sup> Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

<sup>2</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for annual averages and percent changes for selected periods**

**Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Annual average indexes		Percent change to 2003 from 2002 —
	2002	2003	
<b>Expenditure category</b>			
All items .....	170.0	173.4	2.0
All items (1967=100) .....	526.0	536.4	-
Food and beverages .....	162.7	164.6	1.2
Food .....	161.0	162.8	1.1
Food at home .....	159.3	161.2	1.2
Food away from home .....	165.3	166.4	.7
Alcoholic beverages .....	181.3	182.2	.5
Housing .....	162.2	165.8	2.2
Shelter .....	189.2	192.6	1.8
Rent of primary residence .....	185.3	190.1	2.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	192.1	194.8	1.4
Fuels and utilities .....	127.4	140.8	10.5
Fuels .....	110.1	122.8	11.5
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	115.0	127.4	10.8
Electricity .....	121.0	121.4	.3
Utility (piped) gas service .....	125.1	174.5	39.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	117.1	114.2	-2.5
Apparel .....	119.7	121.6	1.6
Transportation .....	150.0	152.7	1.8
Private transportation .....	149.0	151.8	1.9
Motor fuel .....	121.1	140.2	15.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	120.9	140.0	15.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	122.3	142.6	16.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	119.8	138.5	15.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	109.1	125.2	14.8
Medical care .....	281.2	295.8	5.2
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	113.5	114.5	.9
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	105.4	106.3	.9
Other goods and services .....	312.7	322.0	3.0
<b>Commodity and service group</b>			
All items .....	170.0	173.4	2.0
Commodities .....	143.6	145.0	1.0
Commodities less food and beverages .....	132.7	133.7	.8
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	140.1	145.1	3.6
Durables .....	126.7	123.8	-2.3
Services .....	198.5	204.0	2.8
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>			
All items less medical care .....	164.4	167.3	1.8
All items less shelter .....	164.2	167.6	2.1
Commodities less food .....	134.5	135.5	.7
Nondurables .....	151.8	155.3	2.3
Nondurables less food .....	142.7	147.5	3.4
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	213.4	221.7	3.9
Services less medical care services .....	190.8	195.5	2.5
Energy .....	116.1	131.8	13.5
All items less energy .....	177.9	180.1	1.2
All items less food and energy .....	182.3	184.5	1.2

<sup>1</sup> Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

<sup>2</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

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- Data not available.